



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Julie Cox

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: English/AVID teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 4 years

Q. What is AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)?

A. AVID is a college prep program which helps support first generation college students. AVID helps students develop the skills they need to succeed, not only in high school, but in college as well. AVID elective classes focus on communication, critical thinking, note-taking, peer-tutoring, organization, and time-management.

Q. How does the freshman AVID program operate?

A. At the freshman level we focus on organization. Students have specific Cornell notes they take in each class. We grade the notes every week in what we call a binder check. We also focus on collaboration and solving problems through the tutorial process.

Q. How do Whitman College students help support the program?

A. Part of the AVID model is helping students see what life will be like out of high school. We bring in college tutors to be good role models. We could not run the AVID program without our tutors. They help our students academically. They push them and motivate them. They are another cheerleader for the kids.

Q. Why are positive relationships so important to the AVID program?

A. We try to create the AVID family. Our students and teachers feel this connection. Students are more comfortable in this environment when they know they have people they can rely on to help them, not only with their academics, but with anything they are facing in life.

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM JULIE'S CLASS:

One of the things we say in the AVID program: If it is good for AVID students, it is good for all students.



COMMENTS FROM JULIE:

My dream would be to see all teachers employing AVID strategies. We know they work. This could range from elementary through high school. These strategies prepare students for college and life.

I went to elementary school in College Place and Walla Walla before my family moved to the Tri-Cities. I attended Richland Public Schools and graduated from Hanford High School.



I graduated from Washington State University. I met my husband Brett while teaching in the Bethel School District.

We have two children. We like to travel as a family, get on the water and be outdoors in the sun.